Bank were signed. The Food Bank is an exemplary model of regional cooperation to meet collectively the region's food shortages in times of emergencies and natural calamities. The South Asian University will be developed as a centre of excellence in higher education for the entire region.

* There was full agreement that SAFTA was one of the most successful outcomes of SAARC's collective efforts. To realise its full potential SAFTA should Integrate trade in services. The importance of implementing trade facilitation measures was also underlined.

* The SAARC countries agreed to work together on a roadmap, *Inter alia,* in the fields of poverty alleviation, food security, energy, water environment, climate change, trade and transport, information and communication technology, tourism, education, culture and counter-terrorism.

* The importance of people-to-people contactgs^a key constituent in regional connectivity was stressed.

* The SAARC countries committed them selves to combat terrorism and agreed to consider India's proposal to work towards finalising an Agreement en Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Over the years, SAARC has established a framework to promote regional cooperation. Implementation of the decisions taken at the recent SAARC Summits would boost intra-regional trade and investment, enhance understanding through increased people-to-people contact and promote cultural exchanges and travel within the region.

Resumption of talks on Kashmir issue

†3081. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has proposed to resume the peace dialogue with India on Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reaction of Government thereto^ and

(d) whether Pakistan have asked India to include separatists also in peace dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Issue of Jammu and Kashmir is being bilaterally discussed with Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. The Foreign Secretaries of both countries have completed four rounds of talks on Peace and Security including Confidence Building Measures and Jammu and Kashmir. The first round of talks was held in June, 2004 and the fourth round in March, 2007 in Islamabad.

Train service from Delhi to Lahore

3082. KUMARI NIRMALAT ESPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a direct train from Delhi to Lahore, as there is a direct Bus Service;

(b) what are the problems in having a direct train service; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve them?

THE,MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to have* direct train service from Delhi to Lahore as there is a link train currently from Delhi to Attari Which Connects with the Samjhauta Express t6 Lahore.

Delhi-Tashkent railway

3083. KUMARI NIRMALA DESPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with his Ministry for Delhi-Tashkent railway; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE"lN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIR8 (SHRIE.AHAMMED):(a)No.

(b) Does not arise.